

Dear Parents,



It is hard to believe our first week of the 2012-2013 school year is over! This week was full of getting acquainted activities and review. Thanks for all you have done to help your child begin his/her journey through first grade. One of our goals is to keep you aware of happenings in our class, so thought you might like to know some of our accomplishments.

In religion we attended our first school Mass. We had a short prayer service to receive our new books and will be working on creation. We will read the creation story and learned the Bible is the word of God. We also learned a hello and welcome song and will be working on a creation prayer with actions.

In math our class will be patterning, reviewing numbers, number words, ordinal numbers, and matching a number to a set. We will be learning to order sets from smallest to largest, least to greatest, and identify most and fewest. We already made a graph about the letters in our first name.

In our Welcome Back Superkids Reader children have been reviewing the name, formation and 1 sound for each of the 26 letters of the alphabet. We are practicing blending letter sounds to decode words, reading and writing memory words (sight words), and working on comprehension. Many children are excited to read our first story “The Flat Cat” starring Hot Rod.

During this week the students were busy learning routines. We are careful to explain what children should be doing at different times of the day. After we talk about a routine, we practice it. We have routines for putting personal items where they belong in the morning, coming to the group meeting area, lining up, going to the bathroom, getting a drink of water, going to the cafeteria, cleaning up after eating, getting the necessary supplies in the classroom, and getting ready to go home at the end of the day.

We think young children find a sense of security when they have routines. They know what to expect. Along with positive rewards (stickers, extra time for an activity, certificates) we use the following discipline plan.

There is a chart in our room that has a numbered pocket for each student. In this pocket are a series of colored tickets. The rules are simple- follow the guidelines of **FRIENDSHIP, TEAMWORK/COOPERATION, RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, AND EFFORT**. When a child has a behavior infraction (i.e. talking during instruction time, back-talk, being disrespectful to school property, et.) he/she will be asked to remove a card. Each card pulled has a meaning and a consequence. Everyday, everyone starts with green. The chosen colors signify the following:

Green=good choices throughout the day! Great Behavior!

Yellow=warning, discussion of guidelines and choices

Red=infraction, child will be asked to leave the activity they are working on (a five minute timeout)

Severe disruptions will result in immediate removal from the classroom.

Each child has ample warning with this system. So that you are kept up to date with your child's choices while at school, we have attached a calendar to the behavior folder. Each child will color in a square on the calendar to represent their behavior choice for that day. The children's folders will be sent home every Friday or the last day of the week. The parent's responsibility is to check their behavior calendar and discuss it with your child. This plan will be most effective if you use the calendar to praise positive behavior as consistently as you express concern over inappropriate choices that may be made. Once you and your child have discussed the choices made each week, **please initial the behavior sheet accordingly and have your child return it to school on Monday morning.**

Your child's folder will also have an incentive page. When a child stays on green for the day he/she will receive a sticker. When the incentive page is filled the child may select from our classroom goodie box.

Thanks for your support,
Mrs. Langer